

FACT SHEET

**Corrective Action Summary
Union Pacific Railroad
Omaha, Nebraska**



March 2000

INTRODUCTION: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued an Administrative Order on Consent to the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR). The order requires UPRR to investigate and clean up releases of hazardous wastes or hazardous constituents at the Omaha Shops facility, 9th and Webster. The order was issued under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) because UPRR stored containers of hazardous wastes.

BACKGROUND: Facilities must obtain a permit to store hazardous wastes. UPRR applied for a permit and under interim status was allowed to continue storage. UPRR has now withdrawn the permit application and ceased storing hazardous wastes. The storage area will be closed with oversight by Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ).

Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments to RCRA direct EPA to require corrective action for all releases of hazardous waste and hazardous constituents from solid waste management units (SWMUs) at facilities which are issued permits for treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous wastes. Where facilities like UPRR had interim status, EPA may issue an order under RCRA to require investigation and cleanup of releases.

The order identifies 24 SWMUs and 18 Areas of Concern (AOC) that require investigation and possible cleanup.

EPA can require interim measures for SWMUs or AOCs where early action can stop current exposure. The order requires UPRR to continue cleanup of diesel fuel found in the ground water during the construction of the Abbott Drive overpass.

UPRR has proposed new interim measures for cleanup of the diesel fuel (SWMU 19), the paint barrel pits (SWMU 14) and the cleanup of asbestos in certain areas.

To facilitate potential redevelopment of part of the facility, it has been divided into "operable units." Operable Unit #1 (OU1) is the area of the facility proposed for redevelopment by the City of Omaha. Operable Unit #2 is the remainder of the facility and Operable Unit #3 is the ground water beneath the entire facility.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION: The facility consists of about 210 acres, just west of the Missouri River near downtown Omaha.

In August 1980, UPRR submitted notification of hazardous waste activity to obtain interim status for the storage

of hazardous wastes in containers. Wastes were generated from the repair and maintenance of locomotives and railcars at the Omaha Shops. UPRR no longer stores hazardous wastes for longer than 90 days.

UPRR used the facility for about 100 years with its principal functions as a fueling facility, repair shop, paint shop and railcar body repair shop. UPRR used steam engines from the 1860s until the mid-1950s.

By the mid-1950s, diesel powered locomotives predominated. During that time, the entire facility was converted from the maintenance of steam to diesel engines. From the 1950s to 1988 the facility was a major overhaul and maintenance facility.

In 1988, most of the operations, except the Paint Shop and the Car Shop, moved to Little Rock, Arkansas. After the move, demolition of the facility

began.

Maintenance and repair activities involved the use of various hazardous substances principally paints, paint and degreasing solvents, and caustic cleaning chemicals. Wastes generated from maintenance and repair included paint wastes, spent solvents and asbestos-containing materials.

Soils and ground water have been contaminated from releases of hazardous constituents including arsenic, lead, tetrachloroethylene, benzene, and vinyl chloride.

CURRENT STATUS: UPRR submitted the RCRA Facility Investigation (June 1999) and Corrective Measures Study (February 2000) for OU1 to EPA. They also have submitted a work plan to complete a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) for Operable Units #2 and #3.

For More Information

An information repository is established at the W. Dale Clarke Branch of the Omaha Public Library, 215 S. 15th St. Copies of reports are available for viewing during regular library hours or at the EPA Information Resource Center, 901 N. 5th St., Kansas City, Kansas from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., weekdays.

EPA representatives will be available, Tuesday, March 14, 2000, at the Omaha School District Teachers Administration Center

Boardroom located at 3215 Cumming from 4 p.m.- 8 p.m. to answer questions about the cleanup of the facility.

EPA's Project Manager is Ken Herstowski, EPA Region 7, Air, RCRA and Toxics Division, 901 N. 5th St., Kansas City, Kansas 66101. Questions can be made by phone at 913-551-7631, by fax 913-551-7947 or by